

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

3 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Mr. Russell Boutin
116 Penn Lane
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Boutin:

This is in reply to your letter to Senator Arlen Specter regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

You are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land

Congressional

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PRB
92-235
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February 11, 1993

Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Solheim:

My office has been contacted by a constituent of mine, Mr. Russell Boutin of West Chester, Pennsylvania, who is concerned about the increase in land mobile frequencies.

Please accord this matter all due consideration. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Boutin's letter for your review. I have

THE HONORABLE ARLEN SPECTOR
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

JAN 27, 1993

DEAR SENATOR SPECTOR:

As an active builder and flier of remote control airplanes, I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to existing radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will remain if these new rules are adopted.

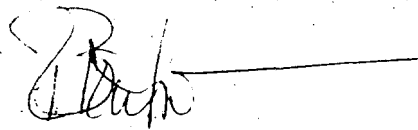
When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators, bystanders and the protection of property. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that my model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet, weigh as much as 40 pounds and reach speeds in excess of 100 MPH. My models were expensive to build and the radio equipment was likewise expensive, but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate with numerous spectators watching.

WE NEED THE USE OF OUR FULL COMPLEMENT OF RADIO FREQUENCIES IN ORDER TO ASSURE A SAFE FLYING ENVIRONMENT. I DO NOT THINK IT IS WISE OF THE FCC TO SEEK TO IMPROVE THE OPERATING CONDITIONS OF LAND MOBILE RADIO USERS AT THE EXPENSE OF RADIO CONTROL MODELERS. THE FCC HAS OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAT THEY CAN PERSUE AND SHOULD DO SO. THIS HOBBY PROVIDES MANY HOURS OF ENJOYMENT TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMERCIAL AVIATION INDUSTRY.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime BY NOT ALLOWING THE FCC TO CARRY OUT ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE 72-76 MHz BAND.

Sincerely,



Russell Boutin
116 Penn lane
West Chester, Penna 19382